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Letter dated 27 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 23 May 2002 (A/56/962-S/2002/577), I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to new massive violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish air force, recorded on 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27 and 28 May, 5, 10, 11, 17, 20, 24, 26 and 28 June, 2, 5, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 July 2002.

On 2 May, one CN-235 and one aircraft of unknown type, after taking off from the airport of Krini in the occupied territory of the Republic, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying in a search and rescue mission north of Cyprus before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara and landing at the aforementioned airport respectively.

On 3 May, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 5 May, one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 8 May, three military aircraft (unknown type) of the Turkish navy took off from a location within the limits of the Nicosia FIR and, flying within those limits, violated international air traffic regulations before landing at the same location.

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On 10 May, six F-16 and two RF-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in three formations and coming from a western direction and the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara and in a westerly direction respectively.

On 13 May, two F-4 and two RF-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in one formation and coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international traffic regulations, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 15 May, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting in a south-easterly direction, from where it returned later on the same day.

On 17 May, two F-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in one formation and coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a westerly direction.

On 20 May, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 21 May, one C-650 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 24 and 26 May, two B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 27 May, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 28 May, two F-16, two RF-4 and two F-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in two formations and coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a westerly direction.

On the same day, eight F-4 Turkish military aircraft flying in two formations and coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a westerly direction.

On 5 June, one AS-532 (Cougar) Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing first at the illegal airport of Tymbou and the illegal airport of Krini, both in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft took off on the next day, 6 June, and flying towards the FIR of Ankara violated the national airspace of the Republic.

On 10 June, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting in a south-easterly direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction.

On 11 June, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 17 June, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 20 June, one F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before returning on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 24 June, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 26 June, two F-4 and two RF-4 Turkish military aircraft flying in one formation entered the north-western part of the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) and very close to the coast (14 nautical miles) before returning on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 28 June, one F-4 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The CN-235 entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The F-4, coming from a south-easterly direction, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before returning on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 2 July, one CN-235 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 5 July, one CN-235 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 7 July, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 15 July, one B-200 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The B-200 entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The C-160, coming from a south-easterly direction, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting in a south-easterly direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction.

On 16 July, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft flying in one formation entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying and reaching the cape of Kormakitis before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara. The aircraft returned later on the same day and, flying again close to the cape of Kormakitis, returned to the FIR of Ankara.

On 17 July, three F-16 and three F-4 Turkish military aircraft flying in two formations entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Mesaoria and Kyrenia, before returning on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 18 July, two C-130 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko and the illegal airport of Tymbou respectively, both in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned to the Ankara FIR on the same day.

On 19 July, one C-650 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 20 July, a total of 20 Turkish military aircraft (nine NF-5, five F-16, five F-4 and one C-130) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) Nine NF-5 aircraft flying in two formations, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Kyrenia and Karpasia, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic. Seven of them took off and performed manoeuvres over the sea area of Kyrenia, before landing once again at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko. The aircraft returned to the FIR of Ankara only the next day (21 July) when they took off from the airport of Lefkoniko, violating once again the national airspace of Cyprus, flying in two formations over the areas of Kyrenia, Mesaoria and Karpasia;

(b) Five F-16 and five F-4 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the areas of Kyrenia, Mesaoria, Karpasia and Famagusta as part of a military march organized by the Turkish occupation army in the area of Kionelli. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara;

(c) The C-130 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned to the FIR of Ankara on the next day.

On 21 July, one C-130 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned to the FIR of Ankara on the same day.

On 22 July, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned to the FIR of Ankara on the same day.

On 23 July, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft flying in one formation and coming from a westerly direction entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest all the above-mentioned massive violations of the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, which run contrary to international law as well as the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, and call for their immediate cessation. I would like to note that these violations are occurring despite the fact that direct talks are being held in Cyprus at Your Excellency's invitation in the exercise of your mission of good offices. I would also like to recall that the Security Council has given its full support to this mission of good offices, conducted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1250 (1999) and noted in its recent statement of 9 July 2002, that the Turkish Cypriot side had been less constructive in its approach (see press release SC/7444), has strongly underscored the need for the Turkish side in particular to change its negative stance. I sincerely hope that the Government of Turkey will show restraint, cease the violation of the airspace of Cyprus and heed

the call of the international community by contributing to the efforts to find a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of United Nations resolutions.

I shall be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sotirios **Zackheos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative